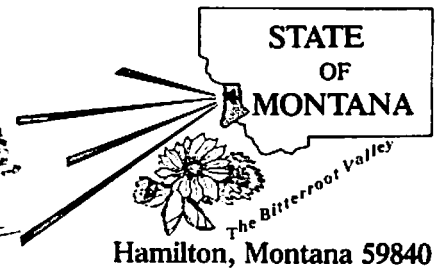
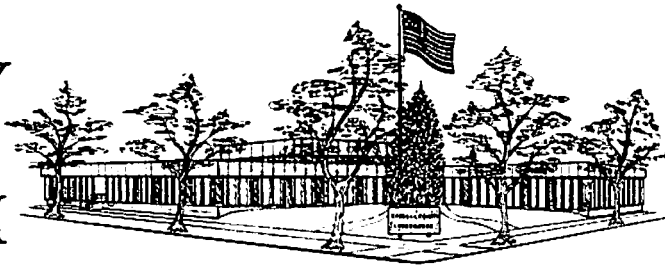


COUNTY OF RAVALLI



Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-375-6500

April 3, 2007

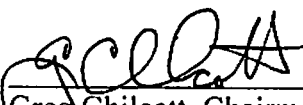
RE: Letter of Support for Bitter Root Land Trust

To Whom It May Concern;

We are writing in support of the application by the Bitter Root Land Trust for funds from the Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust to purchase the White property at the mouth of Kootenai Creek Canyon. This area is one of the most popular recreation sites in Ravalli County and offers a range of recreational uses from family picnics to sport rock climbing. In addition it is the start of the Kootenai Creek Trail which is heavily used to access the Selway-Bitter Root Wilderness.

The property does not represent a significant part of our local tax base and we feel it is appropriate that it be in public ownership and managed either by the Bitter Root National Forest or a state or local agency.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Greg Chilcott, Chairman



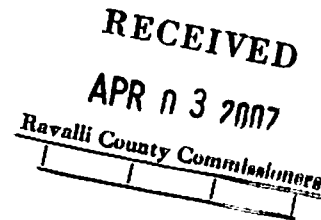
Alan Thompson, Member



Howard Lyons, Member

April 3, 2007

Board of County Commissioners
Ravalli County
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840



Gentlemen;

The Bitter Root Land Trust is applying for a grant through the Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust and would appreciate a letter from you in support of the application. The grant seeks part of the funding for the purchase of 80 acres at the mouth of Kootenai Creek currently held by the White Family (Parcel #265800). The family is very interested in selling the property but also want to maintain public access to the area. The main trail along the creek runs through this property and it also includes most of the rock faces that climbers use. In addition there are several Native American pictographs. Other private conservation organizations will help provide a match for the purchase.

Our application will identify matching funds from a variety of private sources that support public access and recreation. Eventually the property will likely be transferred to the U.S. Forest Service. The Stevensville Ranger is in support of acquiring the property, but hasn't been able to secure funds.

Attached is a suggested letter of support if you would like to use it. Please call me if you have any questions at 360-1372. We only recently found out about the grant which is due on Friday, April 6th. I'd appreciate your letter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,


Steve Powell

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Bitterroot National Forest

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117 North Fourth Street, Suite A2
Hamilton, MT 59840

406/ 375-0956 | office
406/ 375-0925 | fax

office@bitterrootlandtrust.org
www.bitterrootlandtrust.org